



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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March 29, 2019

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I have been closely following your proposal to implement a congestion pricing plan in lower Manhattan. While I acutely understand the need to properly fund critical mass transit infrastructure, I am concerned about the impact the congestion pricing proposal will have on New Jerseyans traveling into New York City via the George Washington Bridge.

I understand that commuters who have already paid a toll to enter Manhattan via the Lincoln or Holland tunnels will receive credits against the congestion pricing program; however, I am troubled that, under the proposed plan, these credits will not be extended to tolled crossings into Manhattan's Central Business District above 61st Street, which includes the George Washington Bridge.

If this program is implemented, drivers on the George Washington Bridge—already one of the most expensive crossings in the area—will have to pay twice to enter Manhattan's Central Business District. Further, if George Washington Bridge crossings are not credited in the same way as passage via the Lincoln or Holland tunnels, congestion will undoubtedly increase at those crossings, which are already in significant need of repair.

I am also concerned that the revenues generated will exclusively fund MTA operations. The double-charging of George Washington Bridge drivers will ultimately shift more individuals onto constrained and aging NJ TRANSIT and PATH systems without the commensurate capital support to mitigate those impacts. I ask that you consider dedicating a portion of congestion pricing revenue to mitigate the burden created on these systems.

While I understand the value of congestion mitigation, I believe that it is critical to ensure that the tens of thousands of New Jerseyans who enter New York City on a daily basis are treated fairly and equally.

I appreciate our ongoing mutual efforts to improve the transportation infrastructure of our region, and I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Philip D. Murphy, followed by his name and title.
Philip D. Murphy
Governor